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Attorney's Docket 081468-0308853
Client Reference: P-1622.010-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
PATRICIUS ALOYSIUS JACOBUS
TINNEMANS ET AL.

Confirmation No: 4349

Application No.: 10/813,687

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: March 31, 2004

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

Title: LITHOGRAPHIC SUPPORT STRUCTURE

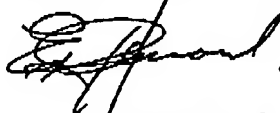
Commissioner for Patents
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Response to Restriction Requirement

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Filed: March 31, 2004

Examiner: NGUYEN, H.

Title: LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD
AND DEVICE MANUFACTURED THEREBY

- RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT -

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated November 29, 2005, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the invention of Group I: claims 1-10, 15-18, and 21 drawn to a lithographic support system having a robot arm and a compliant structure. This election is made *with* traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement set forth in MPEP §803 have not been satisfied. MPEP §803 states "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (*Emphasis added.*)

With this said, Applicants submit that the subject matter of Groups I, II, III, IV and V are sufficiently related that a thorough search and examination of any one Group would necessarily encompass the search and examination of the remaining Groups. In particular, Examiner specifies that Groups I, II, III and IV are all classified in the same

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general classification - class 355 and 361. Thus, Applicants submit that there would be no undue or serious burden to search of all of these Groups.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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